

WLCA NEWSLETTER



Woodlawn Lake Community Association

Published Bimonthly

May-June 2015

San Antonio, Texas

INTERIM SAPD CHIEF TREVIÑO AT MAY 26th MEETING

Anthony Treviño, Interim San Antonio Chief of Police, will be the featured speaker at our May 26th meeting. We have asked him to tell us about traffic patrol in our area, especially around the Park, as well as about enforcement of the alcohol ban at the Park and about ways in which we can work with local police on crime prevention efforts.

Chief Treviño joined the San Antonio Police Department on September 3, 1993. His first assignment after graduating from the Academy was in the Patrol Division, West Service Area. He has risen through the ranks of the San Antonio Police Department and was appointed Interim Chief on the retirement of SAPD Chief William McManus at the start of this year.

A San Antonio native, Chief Treviño graduated from Burbank High School. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Wayland Baptist University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from American Military University. He is a graduate of the Senior Management Institute for Police, the Police Executive Research Forum at Boston University, and the 236th Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico VA. He is also a graduate of the City of San Antonio's Leadership Development Program. He is retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserves where he attained the rank of Chief Master Sergeant.

WLCA MEMBER IN RUN OFF

WLCA member Mari Aguirre-Rodriguez is in a June 13th run off contest to represent District 7 on the San Antonio City Council. Her opponent is the incumbent, Cris Medina, who is vying for his third two-year term. Aguirre-Rodriguez and Medina bested three other opponents in the May 9th balloting.

The run off for Mayor is between former State Senator Leticia Van de Putte and Interim Mayor Ivy Taylor. They scored best among the 14 contenders for the City's chief executive position.

Early voting is from June 1st to 9th. You can vote in the run off even if you did not vote in the first election. Also, you are not obligated to vote for the same candidate a second time. The registration deadline for this election has passed.

STATE SENATOR MENENDEZ VISITS ON JUNE 30th

Jose Menendez, District 26 State Senator, will be the presenter at our June 30th meeting. We hope to hear about the topics discussed and legislated this year in Austin that concern us, our schools, and our community.

Senator Menendez was a member of the State House of Representatives from District 124. He won a special election this past February 17th to replace Leticia Van de Putte, who is running for mayor (left column "run off"). Menendez served in the Texas House from 2001 to 2015. He represented District 6 on the San Antonio City Council for two terms, from 1997 to 2001. He was appointed to the Zoning Commission in 1994 and served up to the time of his election to City Council.

Senator Menendez is a 1987 graduate of Central Catholic High School. He holds Bachelor's Degrees in Business Administration and in Latin American Studies from Southern Baptist University. He is a vice president with Stewart Title Guaranty.

Charles Martin, store manager for the new Woodlawn Lake area Walmart, will also be at the June 30th meeting.

UPPER WOODLAWN DRAINAGE

The digging and construction going on to the west and north of the WLCA area is the Upper Woodlawn Drainage Project. It is funded by the 2012 City bond. Work began on the \$3 million project last December and should be done this August. The project area begins at Overbrook and moves south along the channel that parallels St. Cloud and connects with the Seeling Channel.

It will alleviate flooding on E. Sunshine and on Rosemont, improve channel flow, and remove several properties from the flood plain. The channel will be widened from the current 12 feet to 28 feet, lowered four and one-half feet, and lined with concrete. The underground drain boxes are being rebuilt. New roadways will be constructed where crossing the channel. The low water crossing at E. Sunshine will be eliminated.

Old Plans & Projects – page 2
July 4th at the Park – page 3
Safer Intersection – page 4

WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Alejandro Soto.....485-6168

wlca@att.net

Vice President: Gerard Bustos.....279-8729

Secretary: Ester Soto

Treasurer: Ashley Hernandez.....733-0839

Board Members:

Fred Ayers.....737-1228

Marcy Gutierrez.....313-8296

JoAnn Hernandez.....733-0839

Elia Reyna.....279-7204

REPORTS & UPDATES

Earth Day. The local event took place at our Park on April 18th. Board member Marcy Gutierrez and her TJHS National Art Honor Society students gave seed starter planters and were able to raise funds for Voice for Animals. We gathered more signatures on our Smoke-Free Parks petition and signed up some members. WLCA President Alejandro Soto and Vice-President Gerard Bustos handled the membership part of our booth.

We noticed a declining number of environmental groups among Earth Day exhibitors. T-shirts were given away despite our May-Jun 2013 Newsletter discussion on how such items are contrary to the environmental message. And these t-shirts turned out to be 50% polyester. Our local event needs a green refocus.

Membership Drive. Because we were unable to get enough volunteers, we cancelled the door-to-door delivery of our special membership drive newsletter to the homes in our area. We have Membership Information flyers that you can give to neighbors and new residents to encourage them to join WLCA. Just ask.

Congratulations. Gabriella Fresquez, daughter of Juan Fresquez and Carlamarina Cristadoro, will graduate from Klein Oak High School, Spring, Texas. She will be receiving many honors: Texas All State Mixed Choir Member, National Honor Society, TRI-M Music Honor Society, and many more. She will be attending UIW in San Antonio. Gabriella's proud grandparents are WLCA members Franco & Luciana Cristadoro.

WLCA Birthdays

May: flower - lily of the valley; birthstone - emerald

Daniel Ramirez, Marisa Bono, Bezaleel Chincanchan, Sylvia Garza, Kimberly Hernandez, Rod Logsdon, Daniel Rodriguez

June: flower - rose; birthstone - pearl

Juan Alvarado Jr, Albert Clayton, Linda Felan, Miguel Gomez, Trey Martinez Fischer, Concepción Gonzalez, Kathy Grayshon, Sheldon Levine, Alice Pieper, Mary Pieper, Brian Ramirez, Elia Reyna, Kathleen Trenchard

SPECTERS, SPLASH, SLOGAN

Alejandro Soto, WLCA President

This is not a ghost story. This is about ghosts--ideas and plans from the past that have not materialized. The new all-way stop by the YWLA (page 4) led me to wonder about other dormant projects, plans, and predictions reported on in our WLCA Newsletters. Here are some of the ones still waiting to see daylight.

In Mar-Apr 2005, we talked about our plans for both a neighborhood trolley for our community and a bicycle path on the streets around our Park. We gathered hundreds of signatures in support of each, but have yet to get serious consideration from officials who could make them happen. In Sept-Oct 2005, we reported on a VIA Super Stop to be built at Culebra Road and Zarzamora Street, with 50 more to follow. The facility would be larger than a bus station, with seating and weather cover for riders, but with fewer features than a park and ride. It would have real-time information displays and ticket-vending machines. We're still waiting for that bus (although Primo has some of these features).

In Mar-Apr 2006, we described how the City had cleared the entrance to the swale that carries water from Vollum to the Lake. This point would fill with silt, causing the street to flood when it would rain. The fix was "temporary." The Parks Department had a work order to have the drainage way graded for proper runoff. The work is still under water. In May-Jun 2006, the Jefferson Woodlawn Lake CDC told us about space in the Deco Building for "arts and cultural organizations, as well as gallery space, light retail, and eateries." Has anyone gone there to shop or dine?

In Sept-Oct 2008, we mentioned a potential buyer for the former Protestant Children's Home at 3031 W. Woodlawn. We said that "we would like to see the building preserved and put to good use compatible with our community." The building's site is now parking and an entry for the new Walmart. We do have a friendly ghost. In Jul-Aug 2007, we described the old fish hatchery by the casting pond. We thought that this privately owned land should be acquired and cleaned up as park land. At the Alazán groundbreaking (page 3), I learned that the property had in fact been bought for use in connection with the new trail.

We have seen paving and repaving in our area. We would expect the surfaces to be smooth and puddle free. The north east entrance to the S. Josephine Tobin bridge at W. Woodlawn floods up to the sidewalk with any rainfall. The ADA ramp thus becomes inaccessible. We have the same problem on W. Huisache at Kampmann. The rebuilt Park trail gets pools of water and mud at certain points with each rain. The paved alley in the 2100-2200 block between W. Magnolia and W. Mistletoe channels water to the Mistletoe homes. Who is keeping an eye on the work?

The State Capitol says "Keep Austin Weird." Our neighbors to the north say "Keep Monticello Bello." We should have a slogan for WLCA. My thought: "Keep Woodlawn Wonderful."

JULY 4th CELEBRATION AT WOODLAWN LAKE PARK

The City of San Antonio's 4th of July celebration returns to Woodlawn Lake Park in 2015. Families are invited to celebrate the nation's Independence Day at the Park with a fun-filled day featuring games, food, musical entertainment, and an explosion of fireworks over the Lake. The event is sponsored by the San Antonio Parks Foundation in cooperation with the City's Parks and Recreation Department.

The Day begins with the Salute to Red, White, and Blue Children's Parade. Pre-parade activities are at 10:30 am at the Gym and the parade begins at 11:30 am. Opening ceremonies will take place at noon on stage at the west end of the Park. There will be live music by local talent throughout the day. More than 20 vendors will be offering food and beverages. Rio San Antonio Cruises Kids' Zone will have carnival rides and games for the children. Shortly after 9 pm the crowd at the Park and surrounding area residents will be treated to the Fireworks Extravaganza, sponsored by H-E-B.

NEW LOCAL CREEK LINEAR TRAILS

Two groundbreaking ceremonies took place recently for creek linear trails in and near our community, both within Council District 1. The City and the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) are partnering to expand the Howard K. Peak Greenway Trails System to provide hike and bike trails to creek ways in the west side of the City. Funding is provided by the Parks Development and Expansion Venue Project Proposition 2, which was approved by voters on November 2, 2010, and renewed this past May 9th. The City and SARA are working together to design and construct the project. SARA serves as the project manager.

On April 7th, the Alazán Creek Linear Trail was unveiled. An investment of \$1.2 million will fund its initial phase from the Woodlawn Lake Park Casting Pond to Lombrano Avenue and West End Park. On April 21st, the Martinez Creek Linear Trail broke ground. At a cost of \$1.04 million, the initial phase will run from Fredericksburg Road near the VIA Primo stop to Cincinnati Avenue. At Cincinnati, the trail will connect to a bike lane that leads to Woodlawn Lake Park. The trails will be 10-foot-wide paved paths for walkers, runners, and cyclists, and should be completed by spring of next year.

These trail improvements will complement the Westside Creeks Restoration Project, which is focused on ecosystem restoration and public enhancement of the Alazán, Apache, Martinez, and San Pedro Creeks. The trails will ultimately connect the Westside Creeks with the San Antonio River Mission Reach Project at the confluence of San Pedro Creek and the river.

Next WLCA Meeting: May 26th at 6:30 pm
Wi-Fi (Community) Room ~ Park Gym Bldg

Plan Ahead for Enjoyable Day

We who reside around Woodlawn Lake Park are familiar with the traffic build-up in our area every July 4th. Please suggest to your guests that they arrive early so to avoid the crowds. VIA buses will be running on Sunday schedule. These are bus lines on Zarzamora (520), Woodlawn (90), Wilson (89 & 522), and Culebra (82 & 88). We are hoping that Park visitors take the bus, ride a bicycle, or walk, rather than drive. If they do drive, we ask that they cooperate with the police officers directing traffic and observe parking regulations.

Those picnicking at the Park should carry bags for their trash. On busy days, the Park's trash cans fill up fast and a lot of debris ends up on the ground and in the water. Also, there are no receptacles for ashes, so visitors who plan to grill or barbeque should bring foil or other material for disposing of their spent charcoal. There are blue receptacles for recycling empty cans and uncapped bottles. These receptacles should be used only for this purpose. Visitors should carry a bag for their other recyclables to take home for later curbside collection. Overnight camping is not allowed for the 4th. Both alcohol and glass containers are prohibited at City parks. Please report any abuses that you see to on-site Park Police or to 311 or 911 (emergency).

Remember your pets. If at the Park, they must be on a leash. Whether at home or at the Park, pets may be uneasy with fireworks noise. Shield them indoors or away from the action.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE

The 26th Annual Neighborhood Conference will take place on Saturday, June 6th, from 8 am to 1 pm, at the Laurel Heights United Methodist Church, 227 W. Woodlawn Avenue. It is presented by The Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC), an independent non-profit organization that provides training and resources to community groups so they can better represent and develop their neighborhoods.

Speakers will present workshop topics including Neighborhood Legal Issues, Neighborhood & Personal Safety, Code Compliance, Board Training, and Keys to Recruiting & Retaining New Members. There will also be information on City and private programs that impact on communities. The Luncheon Keynote Speaker will be District 8 Councilman Ron Nirenberg. His subject will be "SA Tomorrow: The Comprehensive Plan...The Sustainability Plan...The Multimodal Transportation Plan...."

Complimentary breakfast and lunch will be available. Free shredding will be offered in the parking lot starting at 7:30 am. Advance registration is desired (to guarantee lunch) but not required. You can do so at nrcsa@swbell.net or at 735-0586. The event is free but a \$15 donation is suggested.

**Woodlawn Lake
Community Association**
PO Box 28374
San Antonio TX 78228



REMEMBRANCE

Consuelo Gonzales died on April 28th at the age of 88. Together with her husband of 66 years, Gilbert Gonzales, they raised seven children in the Woodlawn Lake neighborhood. She was an enthusiastic member of WLCA for many years, and particularly enjoyed the July 4th fireworks. We extend our condolences to the Gonzales family.

The Sailor of Woodlawn Lake

My brother Mike set out to conquer Woodlawn Lake by floating on cardboard boats, bamboo rafts, wooden planks, two barrels roped together. Disappointed, never defeated, he would try again. I would love to say he finally sailed across Woodlawn Lake, but each raft slowly sank, a few at the shore, one or two in the middle. All those afternoons we stood on the grassy edge, cheering him on, pulling him out. Our muddy hero taught me to appreciate a double knot and the silt from a shallow lake to cushion our soles during a long walk home.

~

This poem was written by Diane Gonzales Bertrand, the daughter of Gilbert and Consuelo Gonzales (above). It was entered in the 2014 VIA Poetry on the Move Contest and was among the ten published on local buses during April 2014.

Email saves on printing, paper, and postage. You also receive updates and other notices between meetings and newsletters. If you received this newsletter by US Mail, we do not have an email address for you. We can send information to more than one email address. Let us know at wlca@att.net.

ALL-WAY STOP BY YWLA

On April 30th, an all-way stop was placed at the intersection of W. Mulberry and Lake Blvd. Previously, only Lake had a stop. This is by the north east corner of the Young Women's Leadership Academy.

Our WLCA Newsletter of March-April 2009 shows that WLCA had been asking for that stop since before that time. Historic stone markers block the view of the intersection from Mulberry, then the "go" street. The City said that there was not enough traffic to warrant the all-way stop.

In May 2013, WLCA Secretary Ester Soto took charge of dealing with the District 7 office to try to get an all-way stop. A request was entered but, unknown to us, TCI closed it as "not recommended" because only one accident had occurred at the intersection in the previous 12 months. Ester then reinitiated the request. We noted that the *Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* says that stop signs "are specifically designed to determine right of way (at locations with restricted view, or where crash records indicate a need for control...)" This specifically covers that intersection, and we now have increased safety for students, pedestrians, and drivers.